

BORJANA VENTZISLAVOVA born in Sofia, lives and works in Vienna.
She graduated visual media art/digital art at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna.

BORJANA VENTZISLAVOVA is an cross--disciplinary artist who works in the fields of photography, film/video, installation, performing and media art. In her works she analysis stereotypical roles and models of representations and the impact of political and social power structures and control mechanisms on our existence.

Her work addresses issues of mobility and crossing of socio-geographical and cultural borders and deal with the complex process of communication and translation. Focusing on documentary and narrative structures and constructions, she mixes stages and situations, still and moving image, text and sound into cases and stories that test the line between personal and social, examine the interaction between individual and collective in the frame of current events and history. In her concern with the strategies of re-positioning, manipulation and perception, discrepancy procedure Ventzislavova's work draws attention to the permeable borders between reality and fiction.

SOLO AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS, FESTIVALS, SCREENINGS (SELECTION):

- 2017** in athens, curated by Antonia Rahofer and Eleni Michaelidi, Snehta residency, Athens, GR
I dreamed we were alive, curated by Verena Kasper-Eisert and Sophie Haslinger, Kunst Haus Vienna, A
- 2016** lines, eyes on - Monat der Fotografie, curated by Sophie Haslinger und Corina Lueger, Spenglerei, Vienna, A
Migration Standards, Red House, Sofia, BG (solo)
Fluchtpunkt Westen, Westraum, Berlin, D
We shall overswim, Kurt-Kurt + LS43, Berlin, D (solo)
We are part of a collection, curated by Dessislava Dimova, gallery bäckerstrasse4, Vienna, A (solo)
Zuflucht. Asyl. Wo? Living Collection sixpackfilm, Metro Kinokulturhaus, Vienna, A
Blickle Archive Series: Borjana Ventzislavova, curated by Claudia Slanar, 21er haus Kino, Vienna, A (solo)
Look at Me! I am Made for You., curated by Boris Kostadinov, Projektraum LS43, Berlin, D
- 2015** PROCESS IN PROGRESS, curated by Vessela Nozharova, Galerie Bäckerstrasse4, Vienna, A
Shaping Realities, Galerie Bäckerstrasse Berlin, D (duo)
RABENMÜTTER: Zwischen Kraft und Krise: Mütterbilder von 1900 bis heute, curated by Sabine Fellner, Elisabeth Nowak Thaller und Stella Rollig, LENTOS Kunstmuseum Linz, A
Focus Bulgaria, curated by Iara Boubnova and Vessela Nozharova, Viennacontemporary, A
Mature and Angry, curated by Boris Kostadinov, Center for Contemporary Art, Plovdiv, BG
Imago Mundi. Luciano Benetton Collection. Mappa dell'arte nuova --- Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice, IT
A Dance (in Chicago) | Borjana Ventzislavova, Defibrillator Gallery, Chicago, USA (solo)
WHAT DO YOU SEE?, curated by Maria Vassileva and Daniela Radeva, SGHG, Sofia, BG
DISPLACED Film #1, curated by Bruce Allan and Ben Eastop, DISPLACED, Luckenwalde, D
Sleepless - The bed in history and contemporary art, curated by Mario Codognato, 21er Haus, Vienna, A
Borjana Ventzislavova: Me, you and them, curated by Johannes Holzmann, Museum Angerlehner, Wels, A (solo)
MIND THE GAP II --- VIENNA, curated by Boris Kostadinov, Gallery Bäckerstrasse4, Vienna
- 2014** That Thing, the fridge, Sofia, BG (solo)
Specters Of The West curated by Claudia Slanar, bäckerstrasse4, Vienna, A
Roles, curated by Yovo Panchev, Sofia History Museum, Sofia, BG (solo)
Difference Screen, curated by Bruce Allan and Ben Eastop, ABC No Rio, NY, USA
The Dignity Of Man ..., curated by: Maja Abdomerović, Berthold Ecker, Roland Fink, Terezie Petišková, Jana Vránová, Brno House of Art, SK
Bulgarische Arbeit, curated by Marleen Andreev & André Obermüller, geh8, Dresden, D
Difference Screen, curated by Bruce Allan and Ben Eastop, Nageratsi Institute, Yerevan, AM
der zweite blick – reise geschichten und andere déjà vus, program by Lisa Neuman & Gerald Weber, Open – Air short film festival, Vienna, A
The Dignity Of Man ..., curated by: Maja Abdomerović, Berthold Ecker, Roland Fink, Terezie Petišková, Jana Vránová, Art Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina
KEEP IN TOUCH, curated by Ursula Maria Probst, In der Kubatur des Kabinetts, FLUC, Vienna, A
The Dignity Of Man ..., curated by: Maja Abdomerović, Berthold Ecker, Roland Fink, Terezie Petišková, Jana Vránová, MUSA, Vienna, A
future past - past future, Artup!, curated by Sandra Naumann, Supermarkt, Berlin, D
- 2013** Fragile, curated by EIKON, Bawag Contemporary, Vienna (A)
Mind The Gap, curated by Boris Kostadinov, Radiator Gallery, Long Island City, NYC
Dialogues, curated by Sivio Aigner, bäckerstrasse4, Vienna, A
Artup! Home/s, curated by Daphne Dragona and Katerina Goutziouli, Benaki Museum, Athens, GR
15 Minute Constitutional Bed Stories, e(merge) art fair, Washington DC, USA (solo)
Difference Screen, curated by Bruce Allan and Ben Eastop, Artisterium 6, Tbilisi, GE
Bulgarian Artists in Vienna. Contemporary Practices at the Beginning of the 21st Century –
Sofia Art Gallery, Sofia, BG
Difference Screen, curated by Bruce Allan and Ben Eastop, Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery, Ulaanbaatar, MN

- Art in Public Space "Zapaden Park" curated by Galina Dimitrova-Dimova, Sofia, BG
 passeur, curated by Caroline Messensee, Galerie Odlile Ouizeman, Paris, FR
 Living Dreams. Dreaming Lives., Sofia Arsenal - Museum for Contemporary Art, BG (solo)
 Diagonale, Graz, A
 Creative Assemblages – When aesthetics meet the economy or what do they have in Common?, curated by Dimitrina Sevova, co-curated by Mürteza Fidan and Melih T. Görgün, Siemens Sanat, Istanbul, TR
 Stuttgarter filmwinter, Festival for Expanded Media, Stuttgart, D
- 2012**
- New works in the collection 2012, National Art Gallery, Sofia, BG
 Magnet and antimagnet, curated by Iara Boubnova, ICA Sofia, BG
 The Keyhole of Mr. Wittgenstein, curated by Boris Kostadinov, Bulgarian Cultural Inst. Vienna "Haus Wittgenstein", A
 Neighbourhood X.0, curated by Ege Berensel, co-curated by Katerina Gkoutziouli and Pavlina Mladenova, Goethe-Institut Ankara, TR
 A Room with a View - Abstract and Real Space in Photography, curated by Sivie Aigner, Bäckerstrasse4, Vienna, A
 In Fifteen Minutes Everyone Will Be In The Future, curated by Galina Dimitrova-Dimova, Dessislava Dimova, - Art Today Association - Center for Contemporary Art, Plovdiv, BG
 Rights to a Future, Big M, Göteborg Culture Festival 2012, SE
 Nacht, curated by Verena Ksaper-Eisert, Gallery Ostlicht, Vienna, A
 Living Dreams. Dreaming Lives – Gallery Bäckerstrasse4, Vienna, A (solo)
 Contemporary Icons: Recent Art from Bulgaria, curated by Jeffrey Hughes, Hunt Gallery, St. Louis, US
 passeur, curated by Caroline Messensee, k/haus passagegalerie, Vienna, A,
 Wearing skirts, Museum der Moderne Mönchsberg, Salzburg, A
 Migration Standards, curated by Silvie Aigner, Austrian Cultural Forum, Washington DC, US
 Stuttgarter filmwinter, Festival for Expanded Media, Stuttgart, D
 sixpackfilm - Migration Forms, Topkino, Vienna, A
 Migration Close-Up, PIMP MY INTEGRATION, GARAGE-X, Vienna, A
- 2011**
- The Bulgarian Pavilion, curated by Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva, Credo Bonum Gallery, Sofia, BG
 Final Projects, MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles, US
 Techné, Vienna, A
 Transgressions, curated by Vera Mlechevska, Credo Bonum Gallery, Sofia, BG,
 Common Dreams - Different Realities, bäckerstrasse4, Vienna, A (two-person show)
 Split Film Festival, CRO
 Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, Montréal, CA
 Int. Short Film Festival, Istanbul, TR
 Diagonale, Graz, A
 ZagrebDOX, Zagreb, CRO
- 2010**
- Body Codes. Images from the Museum's Collection, Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, A
 Different Eyes, bäckerstrasse4, "eyes - on" Month of Photography, Vienna, A
 In The Name Of, Thomas K. Lang Gallery, Vienna, A (solo / Mladen Penev)
 ex-garage, Maribor, SLO (solo)
 Central Europe Revisited III, curated by Lorand Hegyi, Esterházy Foundation, A
 TRIENNALE LINZ 1.0, curated by M. Hochleitner, St. Hoch, R. Iglar, M. Mauracher, Landesgalerie Linz, A
 YOUKI - FM4 film series, Escape – utopia and youth culture, curated by Petra Erdmann, Wels, A
 sixpackfilm - Populäre Rituale, Topkino, Vienna, A
 Fullframe, Gartenbaukino, Vienna, A
 Diagonale, Graz, A
 Coffee with suger, curated by Galina Dimitrova, Night of Museums and Galleries, Plovdiv, BG
 KOPENHAGEN CONTEMPORARY, Coffee with Suger, curated by Galina Dimitrova, Copenhagen, DK
- 2009**
- Contemporary photography. New positions from Austria., curated by Silvie Aigner, MMKK, A
 short list "Rufaward" – Rayko Alexiev gallery, Sofia, BG
 Common history and its private stories, curated by Roland Fink Iara Boubnova, MUSA, Vienna, A,
 review, bäckerstrasse4, Vienna, A
 We shall overswim, Academia gallery, curated by Galina Dimitrova, Sofia, BG (solo)
 Me, You and Them. No one is secure., curated by Galina Dimitrova, Credo Bonum Gallery (Cibank), Sofia, BG (solo)
 The Temptation of Chalga, curated by Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva and Vessela Nozharova, SGHG, Sofia, BG
 Me, You and Them. No one is secure. - Phodar Biennial, Pleven, BG
- 2008**
- Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival, Berwick, UK
 Gallery bäckerstrasse4, Wien, A
 "Entre Bulgarie et Roumanie, un fleuve" programmed by Jutta Wernicke, Gare au Théâtre, Paris, F

- 2007** short list "Rufaward" - SGHG, Sofia, BG
 „Bulgaria?...Oh, yes, Bucharest!", curated by Yana Kostova, Plovdiv, BG
 Porno total, ilegal - für eine Liebe, Mayerhof, A
 "Wohin denn ich", area53, Vienna, A
 Sexwork. Kunst Mythos Realität - NGBK, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin, D
 10 years video art in Bulgaria, Art alley, Sofia, BG
 Star&Shadow Cinema, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
 The Rencontres internationales, Babyl. Movie Th., Berlin, D
 The Rencontres internationales, Circ. de B. Artes Madrid, SP
 sisonke, Topkino, Vienna, A
- 2006** [prologue] new feminism / new europe, Berlin, D
 EURO DE LUX, Red house, Sofia, BG, curated by Yana Kostova, (solo)
 It was always dark outside, SGHG, Sofia, BG, curated by Yana Kostova, (solo)
 „minority logbox" by Danesch/Rych in KÜBA: journey against the current,
 curated by TBA 21 & K. Ataman
 remapping mozart, curated by Ljubomir Bratić und Nora Sternfeld, Vienna, A
 Otto Prutscher Fond PreisträgerInnen, Vienna, A
 The Rencontres internationales, Villette Theatre, Paris, F
 Little season, Sfumato, curated by Yana Kostova, Sofia, BG
 16. Cologne Conference, Köln, D
 Diagonale, Graz, A
- 2005** fake 2005, Critique of Pure Image, curated by Dimitrina Sevova, Plovdiv, BG
 [prologue] new feminism / new europe, curated by Kathy Rae Huffman and Eva Ursprung in assoc. with Marina
 Grznic, Reni Hofmüller, Diana McCarty, Milena Deleva, Agnieska Wolodzko, Cornerhous, Manchester, UK
 "the essence 2005" MAK, Wien, A
 Digitale Kunst, quartier21, MQ, Wien, A
- 2004** the global and the man, Sfumato, curated by Galina Dimitrova, Sofia, BG,
 Billboard Gallery Europe, curated by Mira Keratova, 12 cities, Europa
 Interventionen gegen Rassismen, curated by Daniela Koweindl und Martin Krenn, IG Bildende Kunst, Wien, A
 Coded culture, MQ, Wien, A
 Di_alog, Rotovz, curated by son:da, Maribor, SLO
 Permanent 04, Sammlung Essl, Klosterneuburg, A
 Gastarbajteri, curated by Cornelia Kogoj (IM), Hauptbücherei, Vienna, A
 Mediaforum 2004, Moscow International Filmfestival, RU
 Magdalena, Festival for creative communication, Maribor, SLO
 Schermi d'Amore, curated by Jutta Wernicke, Verona, IT
- 2003** "Emerging Artists 2003", Sammlung Essl, Klosterneuburg, A, (solo / Miroslav Nivic)
 Stuttgarter filmwinter, Festival for Expanded Media, Stuttgart, D
 transmediale 2003, International Media Art Festival, Berlin, D
 VIDEOFORMES 2003, Clermont-Ferrand, F
 Radiator festival 2003, Nottingham, UK
 WRO New Media Festival, Wroclaw, PL
 SOHO Ottakring, dezentrale medien, Vienna, A
 „no (b)order" TQ, Wien, A
- 2002** dezentrale medien, Austrian Cultur Forum, London, UK
 "the essence 2002", k/haus, Vienna, A
 "AIM III", Art in Motion, LA, USA
 "thank you for nothing", dezentrale medien 01, curated by gangart,
 Medienwerkstatt, Vienna, A,
 Ars Electronica, dezentrale medien 01, Linz, A
 EMAF, European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück, D
 File, Electronic Language International Festival, S. Paolo, BR
 Cybersonica, ICA, London, UK
 backup_festival, New Media In Film, Weimar, D
 Rendezvous festival, Paris, F
- 2001** "Grenzenziehungen", Diagonale, Graz, A
 "Videos aus Belgrad" MKA, k/haus Passagengalerie, Vienna, A
 Diagonale, Graz, A
 Impakt, "Couch Club", Utrecht, NL
 Videolisboa, International Video Festival, Lisboa, P
 IDFA, Docs online 2001, Amsterdam, NL
 Depot, dezentrale medien 01, Vienna, A
- 2000** VRML-ART, Monterey, California
 Diagonale, Graz, A

AWARDS, GRANTS (SELECTION):

Artists in Residence Banff Center, 2017 CAN
Artists in Residence, Snehta 2017, Athens, GR
Artists in Residence Chicago 2015, BMUKK, A
Ruf Award Grant, 2015, Sofia, BG
State Stipend for Fine Arts 2013, BMUKK, A
Research Residency 2012 - ISIS Arts, Newcastle, UK
MAK Schindler Artist in Residence 2011, LA, USA
Grant for Independent Project, CEC ArtsLink, NY, USA
Artists in Residence ArtsLink 2009, USA
Start stipend 2009, BMUKK, A
Artists in Residence ISIS Arts 2007 - Newcastle, UK
Artists in Residence Rome 2007, BKA, A
Grant - Pro Helvetia, Sofia, BG
Winner Top Ten Nonfiction (Fokus Pokus Euromatik) - Cologne Conference 2006, D
Winner Otto Prutscher Fonds 2006 - Vienna, A
Susmannstiftung 2005 - Vienna, A
Artists in Residence - dezentrale medien, 2002, Austrian Cultur Forum, London, UK
Recognition (luis, i think!) - CYNETart 2001, Dresden, D
Honorable Mention (luis, i think!) -AIM III, Art In Motion 2002, Los Angeles, USA
Distinction (herein.at - dezentrale medien) - Ars Electronica, 2002, Linz, A

PUBLIC & PRIVATE COLLECTIONS (SELECTION):

Foto collection of BKA, Vienna, AT
Collection of the city of Vienna, MUSA, AT
Essl Collection, Klosterneuburg, AT
Estherhazy Collection, Eisenstadt, AT
Collection of National Art Gallery, Sofia, BG
Collection Angerlehner, Wels, A
21er haus/Belvedere, Vienna, AT
LENTOS Linz, AT

PUBLICATIONS/REVIEWS/ARTICLES (SELECTION):

Five weird and wonderful works at the (e)merge art fair by Maura Judkis, The Washington Post, US
Constitutional Performance Art? by Ann Binlot, The Daily Beast, US
EIKON #80, 2013 - Borjana Ventzislavova, text: Silvie Aigner
Case Study, Borjana Ventzislavova, backerstrasse4 – plattform fur junge kunst (Hg.), Vienna 2012
“Einwande gegen die Unbetroffenheit”, der Standard, Print 22.01.2011, Text: Dominik Kamalzadeh
“In The Name Of” - Borjana Ventzislavova & Mladen Penev, Eyes on, Monat der Fotografie Wien, 2010
Gallery - Borjana Ventzislavova & Mladen Penev „In The Name Of“ , Wiener Zeitung, Nov., 2010, Wien, A
Triennale Linz 1.0, Contemporary Art in Austria, Text: Stefanie Hoch
Im Dreieck der Kunst, Linz: Die Triennale 1.0 zeigt das aktuelle Kunstschaffen in osterreich,
Wiener Zeitung, Juni, 2010, Wien, A, Text: Julia Urbanek
Contemporary photography. New positions from Austria., Text: Luisa Ziaja
Bildpunkt, Zeitschrift der IG Bildende Kunst, “Regimestorungen” / Fruhling 2010 - Poster
Die Brucke - Karnten, Kunst Kultur / NR.103 - Zeitgenossische Fotografie.
Life without insurance, text: Svetla Petkova - Kultura, February 2009
“the committed artis”, Text: Gergana Pirozova, Dnevnik, 17 February 2009
“Parallel Worlds”, Text: Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva, Kultura, January 2009
edno, January 2009
EIKON #63, 2008 - Fokus Sudosteuropa (“We shall overswim”) - Text: Yana Kostova
‘Borjana Ventzislavova’ in At Home in Europe, Culture 2000/ ISIS: London, 2007,
Text: Dr. Bernadette Buckley
Vlna 27/2006- “EURO DE LUX”, Text: Yana Kostova
Jungle World, juni, 2006 - “Tanzerin gesucht”, Text: Jutta Sommerbauer
edno, 06/06 - “Dancer in the dark”, Text:Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva
Design Anarchy 2006 - tabula rasa
Illywords thirteen 2005, conscious project
Adbusters Jan/Feb 2005 – tabula rasa
Museum in Progress, Der Standard 6/7 2004 – dezentrale medien
Kurier, Mai, 2003, Sonderausgabe zur Ausstellung Kunst am Balkan
Die Bunte Zeitung Nr.1, 2002 – virtuelles Wohnhaus